

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

16.11-22.11.2020

№ 47

CARICC MEMBER STATES

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

20.11.2020 Staff of the SBNON Directorate for Issyk-Kul and Naryn regions conducted a number of operations aimed at identifying and detaining drug distributors:

1) On November 13 in the village of Kara-Oi, Issyk-Kul district, a citizen born in 2001 was detained, **45 g of hashish and 150 g of marijuana** were seized from him;

2) On November 19, as part of the special operation "Priton", **10 kg of marijuana** were found and seized in homes of residents of the villages of Teploklyuchenka and Ichke-Zhergez of Ak-Suu district. Investigation is under way. <https://svodka.akipress.org/news:1663626>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

17.11.2020 At the Ladoga station of St. Petersburg transport police arrested a 40-year-old resident of the Udmurt Republic and seized more than **500 g of heroin and 0.29 g of methamphetamine** intended for further sale. The perpetrator found drugs in caches in Leningrad region and intended to transport on a passenger train to Cherepovets. A criminal case was initiated on this fact. A preventive measure in the form of detention was chosen in relation to the suspect. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21860383>

17.11.2020 Investigators of SU MU MVD of Russia "Bratskoe" of Irkutsk region have directed to court a criminal case against two participants of a criminal group accused of distribution of drugs of synthetic origin in territory of Bratsk and legalization (laundering) of incomes from drug business. A 30-year-old local resident equipped an illegal drug laboratory in his house and sold illegal substances through an online store. Sales through caches were made by his 25-year-old accomplice. Illegal activity of suspects was stopped by employees of ONK MU MVD of Russia "Bratskoye" in cooperation with employees of UFSB of Russia in the Irkutsk region in May 2020. About **550 g of synthetic drugs** and equipment intended for production of "synthetics" were seized. For selling drugs, the suspect received cryptocurrency on his relatives' bank cards, which he later sold through messengers. Man was remanded in custody and woman was placed under house arrest. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21859130>

18.11.2020 In Solnechnogorsk, a 23-year-old resident of Arkhangelsk region, suspected of selling drugs, was detained in the Solnechnogorsk urban district by officers of UNK GU MVD of Moscow region. The man was detained in a forest area when about **2 kg of mephedrone** was removed from a stash. The perpetrator was a courier and cache layer. Drugs were sold by contactless means. A criminal case was initiated. The court chose a preventive measure in the form of detention. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21873930>

19.11.2020 Employees of the Kirov Line Department of the Russian MVD detained a 41-year-old resident of Kirov who was engaged in contactless drug distribution on transport. More than **1 kg of mephedrone** was seized. The perpetrator, being in Kirov, through the Internet received information about caches of wholesale shipments of drugs and sold it in smaller amounts through other caches. A criminal case was opened on this fact. A preventive measure in the form of detention was chosen in relation to the suspect. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21890185>

19.11.2020 Two suspects of drug trafficking in Pskov were detained by officers of the Pskov OKON of the Russian UMVD. The suspects were involved in distribution of illegal substances in an organized group using Darknet trading floor in Pskov and Tver regions. More than **955 g of synthetic drugs** have been seized. The suspects managed to set up about 40 drug caches in Pskov. The court selected a preventive measure in the form of detention for those detained. Criminal cases have been opened. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21890957>

20.11.2020 Employees of the traffic police department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Tyumen region on the highway "Yekaterinburg - Tyumen" stopped a car "Toyota Rav-4", in which an 18-year-old resident of the Irkutsk region transported from St. Petersburg to Omsk more than **7 kg of hashish, 1 kg of heroin and synthetic drugs**. Drugs were found in personal belongings and inside a sports equipment "punching bag", which were in the luggage compartment of the car. The man served as an inter-regional courier in interests of an online drug store in Daknet. His duties included delivery of illicit substances to regions of Russia. The court selected a preventive measure in the form of detention. A criminal case was initiated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21908322>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

19.11.2020 Officers of the State Security Service (SGB) conducted a number of raids to stop actions of drug traffickers in the Ferghana Valley, in the course of investigations in Andijan, Namangan and Ferghana regions seized **7.781 kg of hashish** smuggled from the territory of the Kyrgyz Republic. 10 persons were detained. Criminal proceedings were instituted. <https://www.podrobno.uz/cat/proisshestiya/sgb-provela-ryad-reydov-po-presecheniyu-deyatelnosti-narkotorgovtsev-v-ferganskoy-doline/>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN

24.11.2020 From 16 to 23 November, Counter Narcotics Police officers conducted 71 operations in 17 provinces. As a result of investigations 80 people were detained, **3.941 tons of narcotics and psychotropic substances, including 72.974 kg of heroin, 812.73 kg of hashish, 6.467 kg of methamphetamine, 94.671 kg of opium, 75 tablets of MDMA, 71 liters of precursors** were seized. They confiscated currency in the amount of 500 USD, 9 cell phones, 7 vehicles, 1 weapon, 1 policeman was killed in the anti-drug operation. Drugs and property confiscated in Afghanistan worth a total of 430 000 U.S. dollars¹.

¹ Data provided by liaison officer of the Ministry of Interior Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan at CARICC.

UNITED KINGDOM

17.11.2020 Police officers in the East District of London Dagenham (England) found and seized **24 kg of heroin** hidden inside a cement block. One person was arrested.

<https://www.barkinganddagenhampost.co.uk/news/24kg-of-heroin-discovered-in-cement-block-1-6934698>

INDIA

20.11.2020 Police detained three members of an international criminal group that was smuggling marijuana from Odisha. Near Indraprasta Park in Delhi, police stopped a truck that was carrying about **315 kg of marijuana** from Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, to New Delhi. Drugs were hidden behind other goods in the truck. A 30-year-old driver was detained as well as a 44-year-old resident of Gaziabad and a 22-year-old resident of Odisha. Seized drugs cost about 30 Lakhs. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/delhi-news/three-held-with-315kgs-of-marijuana/story-5XDJrNpo65OVnGBQy3cdkO.html>

COLOMBIA

18.11.2020 A total of **1572 kg of cocaine** were found and seized by the National Police Narcotics Directorate at the port of Buenaventura during an export inspection. Cocaine was found in a container with a shipment of fruit to be loaded on a ship bound for Belgium. Drug are valued at 69 million dollars on the European market. Since early 2020, the National Police Narcotics Directorate seized about 9 tons of cocaine hydrochloride at the main port of Colombian Pacific Ocean. <https://www.wradio.com.co/noticias/regionales/incautan-en-buenaventura-cocaina-oculta-en-cargamento-de-fruta-con-destino-a-belgica/20201118/nota/4086768.aspx>
<https://www.sundayworld.com/news/world-news/colombian-officials-find-1572-kilos-of-cocaine-hidden-in-a-container-of-avocados-39774419.html>

MALAYSIA

17.11.2020 As part of two special operations against drug smuggling in Perlis, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) in the Kuala Perlis Maritime Zone (KPMZ) has stopped attempts to smuggle **300 kg of marijuana and 1.5 tons of ketum (kratom) leaves²** worth over 1 million RM. Investigations into these facts are under way.

<https://www.bernama.com/en/general/news.php?id=1902368>

MOROCCO

20.11.2020 National security and customs services in the port of Casablanca prevented an attempt to smuggle **2.360 tons of hashish**. Drugs were discovered during an operation to control five containers of marble intended for export. Packages of hashish were hidden in cavities inside marble pieces. Seized drugs were handed over to customs office, and judicial police brigade, in consultation with the Prefecture's Judicial Police Service, launched an investigation. <https://www.ecoactu.ma/trafic-chira-port-de-casablanca/>
<https://fr.hespress.com/175800-plus-de-23-tonnes-de-chira-interceptees-au-port-de-casablanca.html>
https://twitter.com/DGSN_MAROC/status/1329703487408582656

² Kratom contains alkaloids - mitraginin and 7-hydroxymitraginin (7-OHM), which have the same effect on human body as opioids. Traditionally, kratom leaves have been used as a stimulant by residents of Southeast Asia.

MYANMAR

19.11.2020 Anti-narcotics police in two communities in Shan state seized large amounts of drugs worth more than 1.8 billion kyats (more than 1.3 million USD). Officers in Nawngkhio and in the Kyaukme area detained two suspects who were carrying **14.3 kg of heroin and 16 000 methamphetamine tablets** in cars. <https://nenow.in/neighbour/large-narcotics-haul-worth-1-3-million-dollars-in-myanmars-shan-state.html>

NIGERIA

19.11.2020 National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), together with Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Command in Abuja, detained a 38-year-old passenger on an Ethiopian Airlines flight from Sao Paulo, Brazil, on the Addis Ababa route in Ethiopia attempting to smuggle **12.05 kg of cocaine** into Nigeria. Drug packed in pineapple and lemon flavor beverage bags was found during luggage check in the passenger's suitcase. <https://guardian.ng/news/ndlea-intercepts-12-05-kilograms-cocaine-at-abuja-airport/>

THE NETHERLANDS

18.11.2020 The Rotterdam seaport police, together with the customs and security service of the terminal, detained 22 people aged 18 to 32 years without permission to be in the terminal during two nights. The reasons for their presence at the terminal are being investigated. These violations are being investigated with seriousness as they often indicate presence of smuggled drug shipments in containers. As a result, control authorities at the container terminal stopped 7 000 containers, increasing waiting time for truck drivers at Maasvlakte. No data on drug seizures are available. <https://www.politie.nl/nieuws/2020/november/20/07-22-aanhoudingen-binnen-24-uur.html>

UAE

21.11.2020 During Operation "The Fridge", Dubai police seized **123 kg of crystalline methamphetamine** hidden at the bottom of a refrigerated transport container that had arrived from an Asian country. Three members of the international drug trafficking gang responsible for smuggling drugs were detained. The gang was waiting for a shipment of drugs hidden in a container designed to transport fruits and vegetables on a ship. Dubai Police coordinated with Sharjah police and customs. <https://gulfnnews.com/uae/crime/operation-the-fridge-dubai-police-thwart-international-gang-plot-to-smuggle-123kg-of-crystal-meth-into-uae-1.75413188>

PAKISTAN

22.11.2020 A Mazda truck was stopped by a police group near the Latif police checkpoint on the Waziristan road. Search of the vehicle revealed **7 tons of hashish and 60 kg of opium**. The driver, a resident of Bahawalpur, was arrested. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/747265-tank-police-seize-7-tons-hashish-60kg-opium>

PANAMA

16.11.2020 National Aeronaval Service, through tasks to control illicit maritime and port traffic in the port of Balboa, Panama-Oeste province, seized about **100 kg of cocaine**.

Drugs were found inside two containers coming from Guayaquil (Ecuador) and Callao (Peru) in transit through Balboa to Manzanillo (Mexico) and Shanghai (China). In coordination with the Panama Drug Prosecutor's Office, the containers were inspected, resulting in cumulative detection. The ship and crew were allowed to transit freely.

<http://www.aeronaval.gob.pa/default.asp?aid=noticias&n=articulos-noticias-2020-20201116a.html>

SAUDI ARABIA

18.11.2020 Crew of the French frigate "Floréal", operating as part of the Combined Maritime Forces Task Force (CMF 150), seized a suspicious vessel in the northern Indian Ocean carrying **456 kg of methamphetamine and 364 kg of heroin**. In less than two months, CTF 150 successfully intercepted more than **2 tons of methamphetamine and hashish, and more than 300 kg of heroin**. Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) is a multinational partnership that counters illegal actions in the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Gulf of Oman. CTF 150 is currently led by the Royal Saudi Naval Forces.

<https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/photos-french-navy-frigate-seizes-450-kilos-of-methamphetamine>

USA

18.11.2020 The Texas Harris County Sheriff's Office deputies stopped a suspicious truck on the I-10 East Highway at a traffic stop on the 6500, where **100 kg of cocaine** were found and seized under a tarp. <https://www.click2houston.com/news/local/2020/11/18/100-kilos-of-cocaine-seized-during-traffic-stop-by-hcso-deputies/>

18.11.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers at the Pharr International Bridge, Texas, stopped a truck from Mexico carrying a commercial shipment of corn. During inspection of the vehicle, **569.22 kg of liquid methamphetamine** were found and seized inside fuel tank. CBP OFO seized drugs along with the vehicle and investigation will continue with the Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI). <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-field-operations-takes-down-substantial-drug-load-methamphetamine>

20.11.2020 Officers at the Refugio County Sheriff's Department, Texas, intercepted an 18-wheeler truck with **46.27 kg of cocaine** hidden inside its tires. Cocaine is worth 2 million dollars. Authorities believe that the driver had no information that cocaine was hidden inside truck tires. He was not detained. <https://www.kiiitv.com/article/news/crime/million-dollar-drug-bust-in-refugio-county/503-b58eac20-63f8-4f7d-bda2-16c545a46ac1>

21.11.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) federal agents intercepted a vessel carrying **196.41 kg of cocaine** from St. Thomas to Puerto Rico. Five people on board were detained and charged with smuggling drugs and storing cocaine for distribution. While in custody, smugglers attempted to dispose of illegal cargo by throwing seven sports bags with drugs into the ocean. http://www.virginislandsdailynews.com/news/5-men-charged-with-smuggling-433-pounds-of-cocaine/article_75c6a59a-d969-5143-b9f8-7c94697ecf80.html

THAILAND

17.11.2020 Provincial narcotics suppressions police in the Hat Yai district searched an Isuzu pickup truck parked outside the house of a 28-year-old resident of Moo 5 village in



tambon Chalung and found and seized **27 kg of heroin** and **980 000 methamphetamine tablets**. Drugs were imported from the northern border provinces for distribution in southern Thailand. Seized drugs are worth 45 million Baht.

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2021011/>

TURKEY

17.11.2020 Police seized **308 kg of marijuana** during a counter-narcotics operation in southeastern Diyarbakir province. Two suspects in drug trafficking were detained.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-over-300-kg-of-marijuana-drugs-seized/2046365>

UKRAINE

18.11.2020 During a special operation to stop smuggling of cocaine conducted by employees of the Odessa Border Service Unit together with employees of the Odessa Customs, USBU in the Odessa region, a port control unit (SSR) under the procedural guidance of the Office of the Odessa region at the seaport "Yuzhny" in the Odessa region were seized **22.6 kg of cocaine**. Cocaine shipment of 20 briquettes was in the vents of a container with bananas, which arrived from Ecuador. The shipment was worth 4 million U.S. dollars. Since early 2020, employees of the State Border Service of Ukraine found and seized more than **430 kg of cocaine** in seaports. <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/%20video%20u-konteyneri-z-bananami-prikordonniki-viyavili-kokain-na-4-mln/>

ECUADOR

17.11.2020 In operation "Coffee" carried out by agents of the National Ports and Airports Information Unit (UNIPA), together with the National Canine Training Unit (UNAC) and the National Special Mobile Anti-Drug Unit (UNEMA), 29 jute bags containing **1546 kg of cocaine** were found inside a coffee container before being shipped to the seaport of Guayaquil. Cocaine was found during a routine inspection of containers awaiting loading on a merchant ship bound for the port of Antwerp, Belgium. <https://www.policia.gob.ec/mas-de-1-5-tm-de-cocaina-halla-la-policia-en-interior-de-contenedor-cargado-de-cafe-que-tenia-como-destino-belgica/>

17.11.2020 National Ports and Airports Information Unit (UNIPA) in an export company located in the district of El Cambio, El Oro province, found and seized about **800 kg of cocaine** inside boxes with bananas. Cocaine was destined for the port of Guayaquil, from where it was to be delivered to Belgium. Investigations are ongoing to determine the origin of drugs and alleged links with a drug trafficking organization.

<https://www.eluniverso.com/noticias/2020/11/18/nota/8054023/oro-800-paquetes-cocaina-estaban-camufados-cajas-banano-tenian>

<https://twitter.com/PoliciaEcuador/status/1329056329940537350>

22.11.2020 Police officers seized **991 kg of cocaine** during Operation Victoria1203 in Guayaquil. The shipment was destined for the Russian market. One person was detained.

<https://www.elcomercio.com/actualidad/policia-incautacion-droga-guayaquil-rusia.html>

Video: <https://twitter.com/PoliciaEcuador/status/1330655092920504328>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kx-5dEjZA2c>